

Good afternoon,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to the SB 13. In my capacity as the Deputy City Clerk for the second largest city in the State of Michigan one of my core responsibilities is to facilitate the public administration of elections for our 128,513 registered voters. We work diligently to ensure that our voters have the access and ability to cast their vote in an environment that fosters trust and reinforces the integrity of our Electoral Process and those in charge of it. My position puts me on the frontline of this debate as someone who has an intimate knowledge of how SB 13 will affect the rights of our voters to make a choice in how they cast their vote and the added deficiencies this bill will create in the election process.

SB 13 will cause state-wide problems impacting urban, suburban and rural precincts across the state. Unfortunately, Michigan has a reputation for being a state that is known for long ballots (at times creating multi-page ballots), long lines, antiquated election equipment and software, and delayed results to the public. These deficiencies, which have yet to be resolved, already contribute to excessively long wait times for voters to be able to cast their votes, especially during a presidential election. The Presidential Election of 2012, in addition to previous presidential elections, found voters having to waiting in exceptionally long lines, some for **several hours**, in order to cast their vote. This can be construed as voter suppression and infringement, therefore creating a hostile election and resentment by the voters who take it out on our election workers and volunteers. Additionally, Michigan lawmakers voted to end straight-ticket voting in 2001, however the voters chose to repeal that law in 2002.

In Kent County, on average, 50% of the participating voters utilize the straight party ticket option. Eliminating the option to cast a straight party ticket, which is one of three options to a voter, will significantly increase the voters time in a voting booth adding to the long wait time for those who still want to cast their ballots. Considering that resources are not widely available to increase the number of polling locations, add additional equipment and staff will significantly and negatively impact the voters.

We are doing a disservice to our voters when legislators ignore the fact that we have a broken system; rather than take corrective measures they are opting to eliminate a method in which a voter can cast their vote, if they chose to, in a more efficient manner and one they voted to reinstate in 2002. President Obama, via Executive Order 13639, ordered the establishment of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration to identify best practices and otherwise make recommendations to promote the efficient administration of elections in order to ensure that all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots without undue delay, and to improve the experience of voters facing other obstacles in casting their ballots, such as members of the military, overseas voters, voters with disabilities, and voters with limited English proficiency. In my opinion, the elimination of the straight party ticket option will create an undue delay and without implementing any other countermeasures will be moving us into the complete opposite direction of progress.

(The Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration - January 2014) http://www.nased.org/PCEA_FINAL_REPORT_JAN_2014.pdf

its 2014 report - NASED

the Presidential Commission on Election Administration January 2014 Dear Mr.

President: We are pleased to submit this Report and Recommendation called for in your ...

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(Two-page, double-sided ballots and broken machines contribute to three-hour wait - 2012)
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/11/three-hour_lines_broken_machin.html)

I appreciate your time and consideration.

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